COMMUNITY

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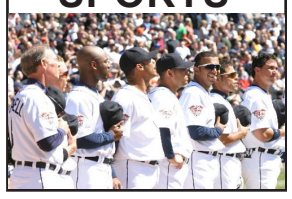
EL CENTRAL HISPANIC NEWS

Michigan's #1, Oldest, Largest and Only Bilingual Hispanic News • Free! ¡Gratis! • Vol. 35, #20 • **March 21, 2024**

SPORTS



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Detroit's Biggest Party !!!

"I wanted something better"

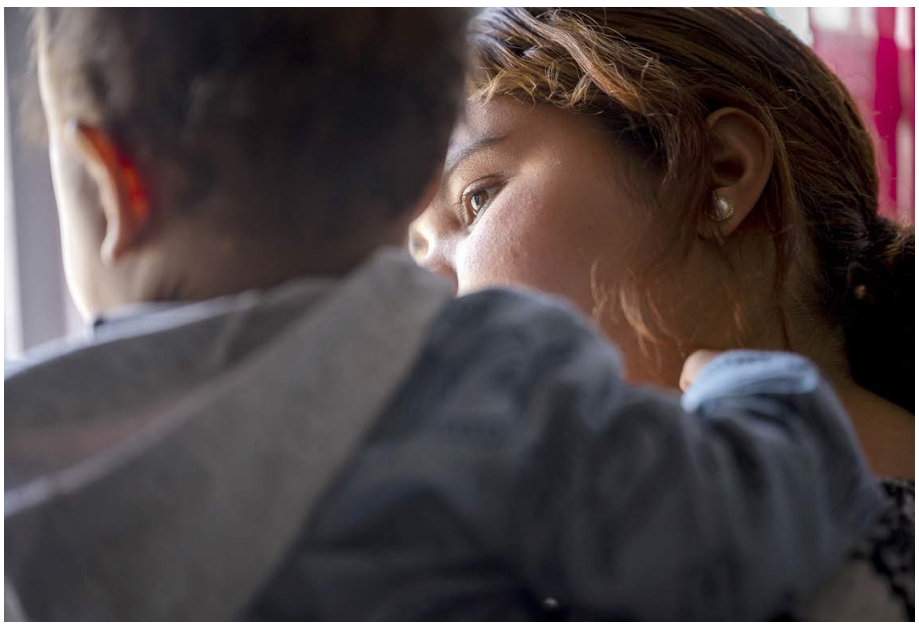
One Venezuelan immigrant's harrowing journey to Detroit

By Martina Guzmán
Photos by Alejandro Ulgade
Published in collaboration with Bridge Detroit.

Little is known about the journey migrants make when coming to the United States. One recent immigrant tells her harrowing story.

Southwest Detroit faces an influx of Venezuelan immigrants. Social service agencies are ramping up efforts to help migrants when they arrive, but challenges remain.

See the full story on pages 7-9



Migrants who flee violence and economic hardships in their homeland often face dangerous conditions on their journey to find a better life for their families.
Los migrantes que huyen de la violencia y las dificultades económicas en su país de origen muchas veces enfrentan condiciones peligrosas en su viaje para encontrar una vida mejor para sus familias.

"Solo quería algo mejor"

la desgarradora travesía a Detroit de una inmigrante venezolana

Por Martina Guzmán
Photos por Alejandro Ulgade
Publicado en colaboración con Bridge Detroit.

Poco se sabe sobre el viaje que realizan los inmigrantes cuando llegan a Estados Unidos. Una recién llegada cuenta su desgarradora historia.

El suroeste de Detroit enfrenta la afluencia de inmigrantes venezolanos. Las agencias de servicios sociales están intensificando sus esfuerzos para ayudar a los migrantes cuando llegan, pero persisten desafíos.

Vea la historia completa en las páginas 7-9

Eva Garza Dewaelsche Honored as Distinguished Warrior

Eva Garza Dewaelsche, President and CEO of SER Metro-Detroit, was honored as a Distinguished Warrior by the Urban League of Detroit and Southeast Michigan at the organization's annual dinner at the Detroit Marriott Renaissance Center last Thursday, March 14.

The Urban League's Distinguished Warrior Award celebrates individuals who have made significant contributions in our community's human rights and civil rights arena over their careers. Awardees are selected for their vision, courage, dedication, sacrifices and commitment to service.

In accepting her award, Garza Dewaelsche gave thanks to her family including her husband, Robert and daughters Lisa and Christina who traveled from out of town to be at the dinner and close friend, Sandy. She also singled out her brother Ruben and her parents Lilia and Archie Garza who instilled in her the importance of hard work, volunteerism, being involved and giving back to the community.

"I'm incredibly thankful to work at SER Metro-Detroit for the past 40 years with some of the most amazing people ever. This award is a reflection of our remarkable team who dedicate their time, talents and passion to provide employment and education programs that make a positive impact on our community and our city," she said.

Also honored as Distinguished Warriors at the dinner were Chuck Stokes, WXYZ-TV 7 Editorial Director; Rev. DeeDee Coleman, Pastor and Former President of the Council of Baptist Pastors; Dr. Isaiah "Ike" McKinnon, Professor and former Police Chief and Deputy Mayor, and Rev. Dr. JoAnn Watson, posthumously, Pastor, Civil Rights, Community and Government Leader.

Congratulations to Eva who also serves as the Publisher and Owner of EL CENTRAL Hispanic News!

Eva Garza Dewaelsche was presented with the Distinguished Warrior Award by Craig D'Agostini, Board Vice Chair, and N. Charles Anderson, President, Urban League of Detroit

Diles que lo Viste en *EL CENTRAL*

Tell them you saw it in *EL CENTRAL*

Whippet WipeOut Campaign Success!

Governor Gretchen Whitmer recently signed Senate Bill 57, sponsored by state Senator Stephanie Chang, and Senate Bill 58, sponsored by state Senator Joseph Bellino, which together will prohibit the sale of items used to recreationally inhale nitrous oxide if the seller knows they will be used for those purposes.

Nitrous oxide, also sometimes known as "laughing gas," is used in medicine for its sedative and anesthetic (pain prevention) properties. According to American Addiction Centers, the gas can be misused in the form of whippets (also spelled "whippits")—small, steel, pressurized canisters containing the gas which are used in pressurized whipped cream dispensers. In general, inhalants such as nitrous oxide and whippets are used more by adolescents and young adults than adults 26 and older. In 2020, 6% of 8th graders, roughly 3% of 10th graders, and approximately 2% of 12 graders surveyed reported to using inhalants in the last 12 months.

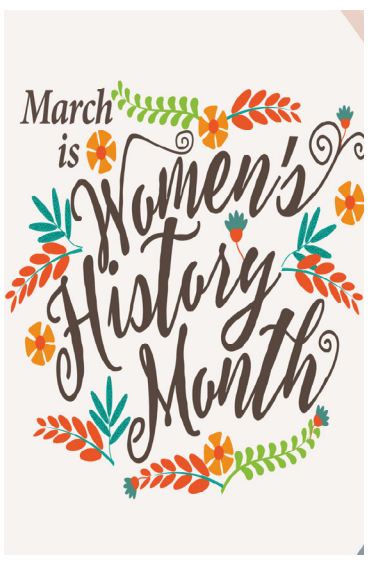
"The abuse of nitrous oxide 'whip-its' continues to be a problem in Detroit and around the state, leading to serious health impacts, in part because of how widely accessible the cannisters and crackers are. With the governor's signature, we have taken another important step to prevent nitrous oxide abuse and keep whip-it paraphernalia off shelves and out of people's hands," said state Senator Stephanie Chang (D-Detroit). "I am grateful for the support of law enforcement officials as well as the Whippet WipeOut Coalition's dedication and determination to address whip-it abuse. I appreciate the bipartisan support of my colleagues, our partnership with Sen. Bellino, and Gov. Whitmer for signing the bills," said Chang.

The new law banning whippets will take effect in mid-June. It will make selling or offering the sale of nitrous oxide paraphernalia a misdemeanor with a maximum penalty of 90 days imprisonment, a maximum fine of $5,000, or both. Penalties would be greater for selling devices to minors including imprisonment for up to a full year, a maximum fine of $7,500, or both.

The Whippet WipeOut Campaign was initiated by Frank Venegas, chairman of The Ideal Group, who in early 2020 saw the growing threat of the abuse of the cannisters to the health and safety of the youth of Southwest Detroit. "We are very grateful to Senators Chang and Bellino for their advocacy to limit the distribution of nitrous oxide to our youth who may be unaware of its dangers," said Venegas. We need to continue to educate our community about the health and environmental threats caused by the misuse of nitrous oxide and develop partnerships to ensure the safe transport, storage and recycling of these containers."

"People are using charging canisters for the sole purpose of getting high," said state Senator Joe Bellino (R-Monroe). "These new laws will address the problem by targeting those who are selling these canisters without selling whipping cream or dispensers for a legitimate use — stopping easy access by kids who use this gas like a drug."

"As lead sponsor of the Whippet WipeOut Coalition, the SDBA is thrilled by the enactment of Senate Bills 57 and 58. This legislation marks a significant victory for Southwest Detroit and our entire state," said Laura Chavez, president of the Southwest Detroit Business Association. "This achievement exemplifies the power of collaboration and advocacy, and we remain steadfast in our mission to promote wellness and prosperity in Southwest Detroit and beyond."



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Detroit's Biggest Party !!!

ANITA MARTÍNEZ NAMED SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT OF OPERATIONS FOR JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT OF SOUTHEASTERN MICHIGAN

Junior Achievement of Southeastern Michigan (JASEM), a Detroit-based nonprofit organization dedicated to inspiring and preparing young people for future success in a global economy, is pleased to announce Anita Martínez has joined the senior leadership team as Senior Vice President of Operations.

In this role, Martínez will manage JASEM operations including finances, facilities management, programming, and key administrative functions. She will lead recruiting, training, evaluation, and coaching of staff, supervise key financial and operation personnel, and serve as the human resources liaison to the Board of Directors, among other duties. She was selected for the position from among more than 100 candidates.

Martínez will ultimately assume the role of Chief Operating Officer following the retirement of current COO Cindy Bazner who has worked for JASEM for over 47 years. That transition is expected to take place this summer.

"JASEM would not be here today without Cindy Bazner's incredible dedication and leadership," said Jason Lee, President & CEO of Junior Achievement of Southeastern Michigan. "As we began to think about succession, we were very strategic in identifying the right leader to complement our existing team and the future trajectory of JA. I have been in several circles with Anita in the Detroit nonprofit sector, and she is someone I've always wanted to work with. We are excited to have her join our dedicated team."

Anita formerly served as the inaugural executive director of The Michigan Hispanic Collaborative, a nonprofit organization that helps students and young professionals navigate the complexity of college access through early career by providing support, resources and opportunities. She also previously worked with United Way for Southeastern Michigan as a community impact director of financial stability and wealth-building overseeing a $9.6M pool of basic needs partner funded agencies impacting 135,000+ residents.

A native of Southwest Detroit, Martínez is a trailblazing first-generation college graduate with a bachelor's degree in Organizational Studies from the University of Michigan and an MBA from Central Michigan University.

"As a parent chaperone for my four children on interactive field trips to JA Finance Park in Detroit and reviewing their JA assignments over the years, I've consistently been very impressed by the mission of JA and the essential financial skills it imparts to students," Martínez said. "I am deeply honored to have been selected to contribute to the refinement of its approach and impact strategy."

JASEM serves thousands of K-12 students and young adults ages 18-25 annually throughout the 10-county Southeastern Michigan region, providing proven programs that teach financial literacy, entrepreneurship, and workforce readiness. Martínez brings a wealth of experience in these areas to her new role.

"Anita is a well-respected nonprofit leader who has a strong passion around financial literacy and education. She cares deeply about making an impact in the community and enhancing opportunities for our young people. That's why we felt she was the perfect candidate for this new role," said David Flynn, partner and co-founder of Orion Solutions Group and a JASEM board member. "Anita's experience with the United Way and The Michigan Hispanic Collaborative will be a great asset as JA looks to significantly expand its overall reach."

As JASEM celebrates its 75th year in Detroit, Martínez will contribute to the development of the nonprofit's strategic and operational plans and implement a financial strategy that positions the JASEM for long-term sustainability and growth. Bazner first joined the JA team back in 1977 and has helped lead and shape JASEM through the decades into the successful organization it is today.

"Cindy has been integral to the success of JASEM over so many years. She is part of the fabric of our organization and JASEM's success can be directly attributed to her leadership," said JASEM Board Vice Chair Rhonda Laurencelle. "Her nearly five decades of dedicated service are deeply appreciated."

"As we look to the future, Anita will work side by side with our president and CEO Jason Lee and our leadership team to expand the impact of JA across Southeast Michigan," added Scott Mullan, JASEM Board Chair. "Anita will be an incredible asset to our organization and complement to our team."

About Junior Achievement of Southeast Michigan

Founded nationally in 1919 and locally in 1949, Junior Achievement is the world's largest organization dedicated to inspiring and preparing young people to succeed. JA offers a wide variety of proven programs that promote financial capability, work and career readiness, and business ownership. Classroom teachers and JA volunteers not only deliver JA lessons but share their experiences and serve as role models helping to positively impact young people's perceptions about the importance of education and critical life skills. Dedicated to providing life lessons to students in grades K-12 and young adults, ages 18-25, JASEM serves youth throughout the 10-county region known as Southeastern Michigan which includes: Genesee, Lapeer, Livingston, Macomb, Monroe, Oakland, Shiawassee, St. Clair, Washtenaw, and Wayne counties. For more information, visit jamichigan.org.

Consortium Of Hispanic Agencies

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SER METRO-DETROIT
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3.3846.4220
https://sermetro.org

A collaborative of Latino-led agencies that collectively serve, advocate for, and represent the interests of the Detroit Latino community in Southwest Detroit

March 15, 2024

The members of the Consortium of Hispanic Agencies would like to congratulate Anita Martinez in her new position as Senior Vice President of Operations for Junior Achievement of Southeastern Michigan and would like to commend her for her outstanding work and commitment in our community.

Anita has been an advocate and trusted leader within the Hispanic community throughout her career. Anita's unwavering dedication to Southwest Detroit, Southeastern Michigan, and statewide initiatives has profoundly impacted countless Hispanic students and families.

As the inaugural Executive Director of the Michigan Hispanic Collaborative, Anita spearheaded transformative programs aimed at bolstering college access, completion, and early career success for Hispanic students. Through her unparalleled expertise and profound connections with community leaders, school districts, and workforce partners, she facilitated unprecedented strides for the organization, setting a new standard for nonprofit impact.

Anita, alongside her husband, Dr. Juan Jose Martinez, Superintendent of Detroit Cesar Chavez Academies, embodies a deep understanding of the joys and challenges of parenthood and education. Drawing from her own experiences, she infuses her work with the same fervent dedication and passion she devotes to her family.

As Anita embarks on the next chapter of her remarkable career, we extend our sincerest well-wishes for continued success and fulfillment. Today, we celebrate Anita Martinez—a true daughter of the Hispanic community, whose influence and legacy will endure for generations to come.

BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS FOR A BETTER TOMORROW

The Latino Community Honors Nora Chapa Mendoza

By Elena Herrada

The Latino community wasted no time putting together a reception for Eminent Artist Nora Chapa Mendoza. On Saturday, March 16th, a gathering was held at the Latino Cultural Center, hosted by director Ray Lozano and assisted by community volunteers. A brief question and answer session was held with Nora, who inspired young artists with her direct answers to their questions. At age 92, Nora has had decades of experiences as an artist and cultural activist, Sun Dancer and respected elder. Some of her former students came and shared their experiences from their own youth, learning art and life lessons from Nora.

Friends and admirers came from near and far to give honor to our beloved Eminent Artist, the first Latin@ to receive the Kresge Award, and also only the second Latin@ to sign the rafter at the Scarab Club – next to Diego Rivera's signature. Only 100 short years later, we witness the second Mexican to sign the rafter!

We are filled with pride and joy to be able to celebrate Nora and come together in fellowship. We are grateful for the recognition Nora has received. Not a moment too soon.

Photos by Brayan Gutierrez

Nora Chapa Mendoza (left), the first Latino recipient of the Kresge Foundation Eminent Artist Award, 2024, pictured here with her daughter, Laurie Psarianos (right)

Nora Mendoza, the first Latino recipient of the Kresge Foundation Eminent Artist Award, 2024 at Mexicantown Plaza del Norte in Detroit.

Nora Chapa Mendoza, center, recipient of the 2024 Kresge Eminent Artist Award, engaged in a lively Q&A session at the Award Reception held in her honor. She was joined by event organizing committee members Elena Herrada, left, and Marta Carvajal

On the Clock Tour

With the NFL Draft closely approaching, Detroit is getting ready to host the NFL Draft (April 25-27, 2024).

The Detroit Lions have been hosting free events. The latest free event was held this past weekend at Patton Park Receation Center.

Some of the activities included; Detroit Lions Activities and Giveaways, inflatables, Bingo, game truck, arts & crafts, hustle lessons, football activities, and food trucks.

The next stops for the "On the Clock Tour" are:

• Saturday, March 23 – Warren Community Center, 5460 Arden (10 a.m.-1 p.m.)

• Saturday, March 30 – Crowell Recreation Center (Easter Fun Fest theme) – 16630 Lahser Rd.

• Saturday, April 6 – City of Romulus – Romulus Athletic Center, 35765 Northline Rd

• Saturday, April 13 – Lasky Recreation Center (Draft Fest theme) – 13200 Fenelon St.

Photos below are highlights from the On the Clock Tour at Patton Park Recreation Center

Photos by Adam J. Dewey

Special World's Cultures

Flower's Day in Guanajuato

Flower's Day in Guanajuato

The city of Guanajuato is known as Historical Heritage not only of the Mexican nation, but also as a World Heritage Site by the United Nations Organization.

It is well known in Mexico that if you are looking for a colonial city with cultural life, the answer is Guanajuato, because almost any weekend there is something to enjoy, from competitions through its alleys either on Motorcycles or Bicycles, or Marathons, Even Altar Competitions, Concerts, Galleries, Museums, Fairs and Festivals. The city lived in folklore through its alleys with the musicians that walk with their instruments singing and telling legends, Guanajuato and its old happy life.

There isn't a weekend when the city doesn't offer something memorable; and this Friday, March 22, is no exception, as Flower Day is celebrated.

The festivity begins on Thursday afternoon when the flower sellers set up their booths in the Jardín de la Unión, so that by Friday the city can begin to color.

Furthermore, from Thursday afternoon we see how flowers and bouquets begin to be given between bride and groom, boyfriends to girlfriends and suitors, it is a day when love travels through the city in the form of color. They say that several decades ago in Guanajuato, as in other places in Mexico, men and women walked through the plaza, the men going in one direction and the women in another direction, so that when a man met a woman who he felt attracted to, gave her a flower as a declaration, a sign of his affection. In Guanajuato the gentlemen thus began the procession in the Garden of the Union.

The tradition of devotion to the Virgin of Sorrows dates back to the 18th century when the miners of the city of Guanajuato, a city located in a mountainous enclave surrounded by gold and silver mines, as well as semi-precious stones such as quartz, also blue quarries that decorate the buildings of the city.

On Flower Day, the city dresses up in colors with parades that illuminate the city in spring with its flowers, whether natural, corn husks or paper, decorations hung along the streets. This festival is celebrated by Catholics to honor Mary Mother of God, Queen of Heaven in the representation of her as Virgin of Sorrows.

There will be Dances, Dances, Parades and Contests of the Altars to the Virgin of Sorrows. This Friday, Flower Day, is how the city of Guanajuato organizes to give strength to the Virgin before she faces the greatest pain for a mother: the loss of her son through sacrifice on the cross.

The Friday of Sorrows begins the Holy Days, since the Sunday that follows is known as Palm Sunday, when Jesus enters Jerusalem to fulfill his mandate as Christ. So, these coming days commemorate the most important dates for Catholics: Passion, Death and Resurrection of Christ.

Sigue cada semana en
EL CENTRAL HISPANIC NEWS
ESPECIAL CULTURAS DEL MUNDO,
by Mariana Ayón RV

ESPECIAL CULTURAS DEL MUNDO

Día de las flores, Guanajuato

La ciudad de Guanajuato es conocida como Patrimonio Histórico no sólo de la nación mexicana, sino de Patrimonio de la Humanidad por la Organización de las Naciones Unidas.

Es bien sabido en México que buscas una ciudad colonial con vida cultural, la respuesta es Guanajuato, pues casi cualquier fin de semana hay algo que disfrutar, desde competencias por sus callejones ya sea en Motocicletas o en Bicicletas, o bien, Maratones, Hasta Concursos de Altares, Conciertos, Galerías, Museos, Ferias y Festivales. La ciudad viva en folclor por sus callejoneadas con la música de las Estudiantinas, las leyendas y su antigua alegre vida.

No hay un fin de semana en que la ciudad no ofrezca algo memorable; y este viernes 22 de marzo no es la excepción, pues se celebra el Día de las Flores.

La festividad empieza el jueves por la tarde cuando los vendedores de flores se instalan en el Jardín de la Unión, para que al llegar el viernes la ciudad ya se alcance a colorear.

Además, desde el mismo jueves por la tarde vemos como se empiezan a regalar flores y ramos de flores entre novios y pretendientes, es un día en que el amor va por la ciudad en forma de color. Cuentan que hace varias décadas en Guanajuato, como en otros lugares de México hombres y mujeres paseaban por la plaza, yendo los hombres en una dirección y las mujeres a otra dirección, de manera que cuando un hombre se encontraba con una mujer por la que sentía gusto y atracción le regalaba una flor en declaración, muestra de su afecto. En Guanajuato los caballeros así comenzaban el cortejo en el Jardín de la Unión, así que en este día de las flores, las conquistas se unen a las alabanzas religiosas.

La tradición de devoción a la Virgen de los Dolores, data desde el siglo XVIII cuando los mineros de la ciudad de Guanajuato, ciudad ubicada en un enclave montañoso rodeada de minas de oro y plata, así como piedras semi preciosas como cuarzo, también canteras azules que decoran las construcciones de la ciudad.

En el Día de las Flores la ciudad se viste de colores con desfiles que iluminan de primavera la ciudad con sus flores ya sean naturales, de hojas de maíz o de papel, adornos colgados por las calles. Esta fiesta es llevada por los católicos para honrar a María Madre de Dios, Reina del Cielo en su representación como Virgen de los Dolores.

Habrá Danzas, Bailes, Desfiles y Concursos del Altares a la Virgen de los Dolores. Este viernes Día de las Flores, es como la ciudad de Guanajuato se organiza para darle fortaleza a la Virgen antes de que enfrente el dolor más grande para una madre: la pérdida de su hijo por el sacrificio en la cruz.

El Viernes de Dolores da inicio a los Días Santos, pues el domingo que le sigue es conocido como el Domingo de Ramos, cuando Jesús entra a Jerusalén para cumplir con su mandato como Cristo. De manera que estos días que vienen se conmemoran las fechas más importantes para los católicos: Pasión, Muerte y Resurrección de Cristo.

Tell them you saw it in Diles que lo viste en
EL CENTRAL
Hispanic News

I DON'T LIKE LOOKING PEOPLE IN THE EYE
Jacob Sanchez
Diagnosed with autism
Lack of eye contact is a sign of autism.
Learn the others at autismspeaks.org/signs.
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EL CENTRAL informs and celebrates Metro Detroit's Hispanic and Latino community and Southwest Detroit in particular and supports the professional development of local reporters and photographers who seek to enter the journalism profession.

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“I wanted something better:” One Venezuelan immigrant’s harrowing journey to Detroit

Southwest Detroit faces influx of Venezuelan immigrants

By Martina Guzmán | Photos by Alejandro Ugalde

On a cold day in January, Carmen (not her real name) carried her ten-month-old baby boy down Vernor Highway in Southwest Detroit. In a moment of panic and desperation, she left the apartment she shared with five other people and went outside for air. Though the temperature was just above freezing, she wore flip-flops and a tank top — she had no winter coat or boots for herself or her baby.

Carmen is 22 years old and one of the hundreds of Venezuelan refugees who have arrived in Detroit — just some of the millions who have fled the country’s totalitarian government and economic crisis. The situation there has become so dire with starvation and crime that 7.3 million Venezuelans have been displaced.

“The desperation in Venezuela is everywhere,” Carmen says.

Her journey began in 2017 and took her to Colombia and Ecuador before she crossed the dangerous Darién Gap on her journey north to the U.S. border, with stops in El Paso, Texas and New York City.

Detroit has not seen the same influx of Latin American migrants as New York, where the mayor has declared it as a humanitarian crisis. Still, social service agencies such as the Detroit Hispanic Development Corporation are rapidly preparing to deal with the health and well-being of the migrants once they arrive.

Angie Reyes, Executive Director of DHDC, said her team noticed migrants trickling in late last year before a large influx during the holidays when Carmen arrived. Reyes says DHDC has helped about 200 people.

“We’re trying to connect (migrants) to resources, get them clothing, diapers, and essentials.”

Mary Carmen Muñoz, Executive Director of Latin Americans for Social and Economic Development (LA-SED), said her organization, which also works with recent immigrants and refugees, has seen a significant increase in Venezuelan newcomers. Many of them are families arriving without clothing for winter.

“The environment challenges them,” Muñoz said. “We provide immediate relief and work with Freedom House (temporary home for asylum seekers from around the world) to help find housing.”

No safe place

Carmen’s journey to Detroit had many stops.

After leaving her home, Carmen tried her luck in neighboring Colombia, which is host to the largest community of Venezuelan refugees in the world.

She arrived with only a backpack, part of a crowd of other refugees. She dodged the scam artists and con men who prey on frightened newcomers and walked and hitched rides until she arrived in Barbosa, a small city outside Medellín – Colombia’s second-largest city – and tried to settle in.

Carmen got a job as a cook at a small restaurant, where she says she was treated warmly and respectfully. But the pay was so low she could barely scrape enough money together to afford the low-rate hotel she was staying in despite working seven days a week. After three months, she still had no money for food or anything else. She felt she had no choice but to move on.

An aunt who lived in Ecuador invited her to stay until she got on her feet.

Continues on page 8

“Solo quería algo mejor:” la desgarradora travesía a Detroit de una inmigrante venezolana

El suroeste de Detroit enfrenta la afluencia de inmigrantes venezolanos.

Por Martina Guzmán | Photos por Alejandro Ugalde

En un frío día de enero, Carmen (no es su verdadero nombre) llevaba a su bebé de diez meses por Vernor Highway, en el suroeste de Detroit. En un momento de pánico y desesperación, salió del apartamento que compartía con otras cinco personas a tomar aire. Aunque la temperatura estaba justo por encima del punto de congelación, llevaba chanclas y una camiseta sin mangas; no tenía abrigo de invierno ni botas para ella o su bebé.

Carmen tiene 22 años y es solo una, de los cientos de refugiados venezolanos que han llegado a Detroit, que son solo algunos de los millones que han huido del gobierno totalitario y la crisis económica. La situación se ha vuelto tan grave debido al hambre y la criminalidad que 7,3 millones de venezolanos han sido desplazados.

“La desesperación en Venezuela está en todas partes”, comentó Carmen.

Su viaje comenzó en 2017 pasando por Colombia y Ecuador, antes de cruzar el peligroso Tapón del Darién; en su trayecto hacia Estados Unidos, con paradas en El Paso, Texas y la ciudad de Nueva York.

Detroit no ha visto la misma afluencia de inmigrantes latinoamericanos que Nueva York, donde el alcalde ha declarado una crisis humanitaria; pero, aun así, agencias de servicios sociales como la Corporación de Desarrollo Hispano de Detroit, se están preparando para ocuparse de la salud y el bienestar de los inmigrantes una vez que lleguen.

Angie Reyes, directora ejecutiva de DHDC, comentó que su equipo notó que los inmigrantes empezaron a llegar lentamente a finales del año pasado, antes de una gran afluencia en la temporada navideña, en la que vino Carmen. Reyes comparte, que DHDC ha ayudado a unas 200 personas.

“Estamos tratando de conectar (a los inmigrantes) con recursos, conseguirles ropa, pañales y artículos de primera necesidad”.

Mary Carmen Muñoz, directora ejecutiva de Latin Americans for Social and Economic Development (LA-SED), mencionó que su organización, la cual también trabaja con inmigrantes y refugiados, ha visto un aumento significativo de venezolanos y muchos de ellos son familias sin ropa para el invierno.

“El medio ambiente los desafía”, dijo Muñoz. “Brindamos ayuda inmediata y trabajamos con Freedom House (hogar temporal para solicitantes de asilo de todo el mundo) para ayudarlos a encontrar vivienda”.

No encontró ningún lugar seguro

El viaje de Carmen a Detroit tuvo muchas paradas.

Después de dejar su casa, Carmen probó suerte en su vecina Colombia, que alberga la comunidad de refugiados venezolanos más grande del mundo.

Llegó solo con una mochila, como parte de una multitud de refugiados. Evitó a los estafadores que se aprovechan de los recién llegados asustados, caminó y pidió “aventones” hasta que llegó a Barbosa, una pequeña ciudad en las afueras de Medellín, la segunda ciudad más grande de Colombia, y trató de establecerse.

Carmen consiguió trabajo de cocinera, en un pequeño restaurante, donde la trataron con calidez y respeto, pero el salario era tan bajo que apenas podía reunir el dinero para pagar el hospedaje en el que se quedaba; a pesar de trabajar siete días a la semana. Después de tres meses, todavía no tenía suficiente para comida ni nada, por lo que sintió que no tenía más remedio que continuar.

Una tía que vivía en Ecuador la invitó a quedarse hasta que se recuperara. Desplazada por segunda vez, caminó kilómetros, tomó autobuses y pidió “aventones” hasta Quito, la capital de Ecuador, donde empezaría de nuevo y trataría de salir adelante.

Durante cinco años funcionó. Carmen se apresuraba: cocinaba y vendía arepas en las concurridas calles durante el día y con una hielera les vendía helados a los carros que pasaban por la noche. Ganaba lo suficiente para alquilar una habitación y todavía le quedaba dinero para hacer la compra. Había vida en Ecuador. En el 2020, ella encontró una pareja que la hacía feliz y en 2021 dio a luz a una hija, quizás finalmente había llegado a su destino, pensó.

Pero a su alrededor comenzaron a aparecer signos de una inestabilidad cada vez mayor. Una presencia creciente de narcotraficantes y cárteles internacionales de México y Albania establecieron rutas en Ecuador. Trajeron consigo una violencia aterradora, dejando a Carmen en una constante de inquietud. Veía que las cosas iban cada vez peor en Ecuador.

Las cosas continúan mal en Ecuador. Más de un año y medio después de su partida, hombres armados irrumpieron en el estudio de una importante estación de televisión ecuatoriana, durante una transmisión en vivo. El ataque se produjo después de una serie de episodios violentos que se extendieron por todo el país, incluidas explosiones y secuestro de policías.

En agosto de 2022, Carmen decidió desarraigar nuevamente su vida; poniendo su mirada en Estados Unidos. “Cualquier otro país iba a ser más de lo mismo…más de apenas, sobrevivir…Quería algo mejor”. Comentó.

Su desesperación por no encontrar una vida mejor cerca de casa no era infundada. Según el Banco Mundial, América Latina y el Caribe tienen la “distinción indeseable” de ser una de las regiones más violentas del mundo.

Pero para las personas con poco o nada de dinero, el trayecto hasta la frontera con Estados Unidos es una tortura. Cruzan ocho países y soportan semanas, a veces meses, de viajes peligrosos para llegar a la frontera de México y Estados Unidos. Los migrantes se enfrentan a terrenos peligrosos, expuestos a enfermedades y violencia a manos de grupos criminales.

Una y otra vez, le advirtieron a Carmen sobre el despiadado camino, pero ella estaba decidida a hacer de este movimiento, el último. Con su bebé de diez meses a cuestas y embarazada de cuatro meses, ella cruzaría el Tapón del Darién, un peligroso tramo de jungla de 66 millas que conecta Colombia y Panamá y marca el comienzo del traicionero viaje hacia el norte, que tomaría dos meses.

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“I wanted something better”

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Displaced for a second time, she walked miles, took buses and hitched rides to Quito, the capital city of Ecuador, where she would start over again and try to make a go of it.

For five years, it worked. Carmen hustled—cooking and selling arepas on the crowded streets during the day and selling ice cream out of a cooler to passing cars in the evening. She earned enough to rent a room and still have money for groceries. There was life in Ecuador. By 2020, Carmen found a partner who made her happy, and in 2021, she gave birth to a daughter. Perhaps she had finally arrived at her destination, she thought.

But all around her, signs of deepening instability began to show. A growing presence of drug lords and international cartels from Mexico and Albania established routes in Ecuador. They brought with them terrifying violence, leaving Carmen with a constant sense of unease. Every year, she saw things in Ecuador getting worse, not better.

Things have continued to deteriorate in Ecuador. More than a year and a half after Carmen left, armed men stormed into the studio of a major Ecuadorian TV station during a live broadcast as the country watched. The attack came after a series of violent episodes that spread across the country, including explosions and the abduction of police officers.

In August of 2022, Carmen decided to uproot her life again; this time, she set her sights on the United States.

“Any other country was going to be more of the same, more of barely surviving,” Carmen said. “I wanted something better.”

Her despair about finding a better life close to home was not baseless. According to the World Bank, Latin America and the Caribbean have the “undesirable distinction” of being one of the world’s most violent regions.

But for people with little or no money, the journey to the U.S. border is torturous. They cross eight countries and endure weeks, sometimes months, of dangerous travel to reach the border of Mexico and the United States. Migrants face treacherous terrain, exposure to disease and violence at the hands of criminal groups.

Over and over, others warned Carmen of the merciless passage, but she was determined to make this move her last. With her ten-month-old in tow and four months pregnant, Carmen would cross the Darién Gap, a dangerous 66-mile stretch of jungle that connects Colombia and Panama and marks the beginning of the treacherous journey north that would take two months.

“The jungle is a business,” Carmen said. “People shake you down for money as soon as you get there. There is no end to it. At every stretch, someone is there to extort you.”

A treacherous journey

Carmen lived in constant fear of being raped, kidnapped, or killed, but she kept walking through a dense rainforest that draped over steep mountains and vast swamps. She walked past mounds of luggage, clothing, and backpacks left behind by migrants who realized they could no longer carry their belongings. Past armed men and past dead bodies.

“I grabbed a sheet that was on the ground to wrap my daughter in because she had a fever,” Carmen said. “But when I pulled the sheet, there was a dead little boy about three or four years old underneath. Seeing him filled me with horror and panic.”

At last, she reached Panama, but she had to keep walking, crossing through rivers and streams. At one crossing, Carmen lost her grip and was swept away by the river’s strong current.

She had been carrying her infant in her arms, but as the water pulled her away from her group of about 50, she felt someone grab hold of the baby. She let go of her child and was carried away by the river.

“I preferred to let my daughter go to save her. If I didn’t let her go, I would have taken her with me, and she would have drowned,” Carmen said.

The river pulled her in and threw her against the rocks. She started swallowing water and could feel herself drowning. Then, strong hands grasped her. She says a man who knew how to swim came back to save her.

Her daughter, now two, is terrified of water. “Sometimes she screams when I bathe her,” Carmen said. “Tell me, what child screams when getting a bath?”

The rest of her journey was just as dramatic. She walked and hitched rides through the rest of Panama, then Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Honduras, and Guatemala, carrying her daughter the whole way. Every day, there was a new struggle, but every day she kept walking.

Mexico, a country rife with cartels, corrupt police, and human traffickers eager to profit from the flow of people headed north, lay ahead of her. As she moved on, Carmen was terrified of being killed, kidnapped, or extorted, which are not uncommon fates for people like her in Mexico, where migration protection rackets are a billion-dollar industry.

Elizabeth Orozco Vasquez, CEO of Freedom House Detroit said “these are not unique stories.”

“We have heard everything. They cross the jungle where there are dead bodies. Men usually make the journey faster, but women and children take longer because they have to hide at night for fear of being raped. All the way through to the northern border, people are being exploited,” Orozco Vasquez said. “We had a woman who came through with two children. She was raped in Mexico. She was seven months pregnant by the time she got to Freedom House.”

Orozco Vasquez adds that “no one takes that kind of journey if their homeland was safe. These people really cannot go back, their countries have collapsed, it’s too dangerous.”

Two months after leaving Ecuador, malnourished, dehydrated, and now six months pregnant, Carmen arrived in Ciudad Juarez. Across the Rio Grande was El Paso, Texas. She crossed that last river and allowed herself to be picked up by Border Patrol agents.

When the police took her into custody, she wept for joy. “I was overcome with a sense of peace when I got to the United States,” said Carmen. “I felt safe.”

Hardships continue

In October 2022, Carmen spent nine days in an immigration detention and processing center, which she describes as a “prison.” Then, a Catholic organization bought her a bus ticket to New York City, where she joined more than 150,000 other new arrivals, a flood of migrants that has strained city services.

Carmen was placed in a Manhattan hotel repurposed for emergency migrant housing and, a few months after arriving, gave birth to a son in a New York City hospital. She felt hopeful about this new life.

But her hopefulness did not last. Soon after her baby was born, her mental health began to deteriorate. “They told me I had postpartum depression,” Carmen said.

While water can be life-giving, it often triggers bad memories for Carmen and her child.

For months, Carmen isolated herself in her hotel room. She couldn’t work and struggled to make friends. Sometimes, she would wander down to the lobby of the repurposed hotel, a de facto town square, where migrants and refugees gathered daily. Carmen went there a few times to try and meet people, but fights broke out, which scared her.

“I cried all the time,” she said. “If anyone said anything to me, I would burst into tears.”

As the weeks stretched on, Carmen began cutting herself. She was consumed by depression. After almost a year in that hotel room, she couldn’t take it anymore. In late October of 2023, she took her children back to the NYC Port Authority and boarded a bus, once again leaving an adopted home behind. This time, she was bound for Detroit, where her brother had moved, and he had invited her to join him.

The city of Detroit said it does not have data on the total number of migrants that have arrived here. However, David M. Bowser, chief of housing solutions and supportive services for the city, says there are 144 new arrivals currently occupying beds in emergency facilities.

“The city continues to work closely with our local partners to be aware of and to address the needs of all residents, long-term or new arrivals, of the City of Detroit,” Bowser said.

When she arrived, Carmen found more challenges but also a new home. She recently got a small one-bedroom apartment where she lives with her partner, her two children and her sister.

“I suffered every single day of the journey, I slept in the streets, I was treated so badly, I was so hungry and my daughter’s health suffered. I would never do it again if I knew what it was like,” Carmen said.

Since her panic attack on Vernor Hwy in Southwest Detroit, Carmen has started school, learning how to read, and is settling into her new home.

“For the first time in my life, I feel like I’m one step ahead,” she said.

Resources for Migrants in Detroit

SOCIAL SERVICES

LA-SED: Latin Americans for Social and Economic Development
4138 Vernor Hwy,
Detroit, MI 48209
313-554-2025

MUTUAL AID

Detroit Hispanic Development Corporation
1211 Trumbull, Detroit 48126
313-967-4880

Church of the Messiah
231 E Grand Blvd,
Detroit, MI 48207
313-567-1158

LEGAL SERVICES

Southwest Detroit Immigrant and Refugee Center
17375 Harper Ave, Suite 24124
Detroit, MI 48224
313-288-9904

HOUSING

Freedom House Detroit
1777 N Rademacher St,
Detroit, MI 48209
313-964-4320

City of Detroit’s Housing & Revitalization Department
Coleman A. Young Municipal Center, 2 Woodward Ave. - Suite 908, Detroit, MI 48226
(313) 224-6380

Martina Guzmán *is the founder and director of the Race and Justice Reporting Initiative at the Damon J. Keith Center for Civil Rights at Wayne State University Law School. Her work has appeared on NPR, The Guardian, Slate, PBS, Next City, and HOUR Magazine, among many others. Born and raised in Detroit, she is a proud daughter of Mexican immigrants.*

Published in collaboration with Bridge Detroit

“Solo quería algo mejor”

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“La selva es un negocio… la gente te exprime, pidiéndote dinero tan pronto como llegas allí. No hay final para ello; en cada momento, alguien está ahí para extorsionarte”, expresó Carmen.

Un viaje traicionero

Carmen vivía con el temor constante de ser violada, secuestrada o asesinada, pero siguió caminando a través de una densa selva tropical que cubría montañas escarpadas y vastos pantanos. Pasó junto a montones de equipaje, ropa y mochilas dejadas por los migrantes que se dieron cuenta de que ya no podían cargar sus pertenencias. Pasando hombres armados y cadáveres.

“Agarré una sábana que estaba en el suelo para envolver a mi hija porque tenía fiebre… pero cuando saqué la sábana, debajo había un niño muerto de unos tres o cuatro años. Verlo me llenó de horror y pánico”, dijo.

Finalmente llegó a Panamá, pero tuvo que seguir caminando, cruzando ríos y arroyos. En un cruce, perdió el control y fue arrastrada por la fuerte corriente del río.

Llevaba a su bebé en brazos, pero cuando el agua la alejó de su grupo de aproximadamente 50 personas, sintió que alguien agarraba a la bebé; soltó a su hija y dejó que el agua se la llevara.

“Preferí dejar ir a mi hija para salvarla. Si no la hubiera soltado, me la hubiera llevado conmigo y se hubiera ahogado”, dijo Carmen.

El río la jaló y la arrojó contra las rocas. Comenzó a tragar agua y sintió que se ahogaba. Entonces, unas manos fuertes la agarraron. Ella dice que un hombre que sabía nadar regresó para salvarla.

A su hija, que ahora tiene dos años, le da miedo el agua. “A veces grita cuando la baño, dígame, ¿qué niño grita al bañarse?” preguntó.

El resto de su viaje fue igual de dramático. Caminó y pidió *ride* por el resto de Panamá, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Honduras y Guatemala, cargando a su hija durante todo el camino. Cada día había una nueva lucha, pero ella seguía caminando.

México, un país plagado de cárteles, policías corruptos y traficantes de personas deseosos de sacar provecho del flujo de personas que se dirigen al norte, estaba por delante. A medida que avanzaba, se

aterrorizaba de que la asesinaran, secuestraran o extorsionaran, situaciones frecuentes para personas como ella en México, donde las estafas por protección migratoria son una industria de miles de millones de dólares.

Elizabeth Orozco Vásquez, directora ejecutiva de Freedom House Detroit, comentó “estas no son historias únicas”.

“Hemos escuchado de todo. Cruzan la selva donde hay cadáveres. Los hombres suelen hacer el viaje más rápido, pero las mujeres y los niños tardan más porque tienen que esconderse por la noche por miedo

a que los violen. En todo el camino hasta la frontera norte la gente está siendo explotada”, dijo Orozco Vásquez. “Tuvimos a una mujer que vino con dos niños. Fue violada en México. Tenía siete meses de embarazo cuando llegó a Freedom House”.

Orozco Vásquez añade que “nadie haría ese tipo de viaje si su patria estuviera segura. Esta gente realmente no puede regresar, sus países se han derrumbado, es demasiado peligroso”.

Dos meses después de salir de Ecuador, desnutrida, deshidratada y ahora con seis meses de embarazo, Carmen llegó a Ciudad Juárez, donde al otro lado del Río Grande estaba El Paso, Texas. Cruzó ese último río y se entregó a los agentes de la Patrulla Fronteriza.

Cuando la policía la detuvo, lloró de alegría. “Me invadió una sensación de paz cuando llegué a los Estados Unidos… me sentí segura”.

Las dificultades continúan

En octubre de 2022, Carmen pasó nueve días en un centro de procesamiento y detención de inmigrantes, que ella describe como una “prisión”. Luego, una organización católica le compró un boleto de autobús a la ciudad de Nueva York, donde se unió a más de 150.000 recién llegados, una avalancha de inmigrantes que ha sobrecargado los servicios de la ciudad.

Carmen ingresó a un hotel de Manhattan, convertido en alojamiento de emergencia para inmigrantes y unos meses después de llegar, dio a luz a su hijo en un hospital de la ciudad de Nueva York. Se sentía esperanzada por su nueva vida.

Pero no duró mucho. Poco después del nacimiento de su bebé, su salud mental comenzó a deteriorarse. “Me dijeron que tenía depresión posparto”, dijo ella.

Durante meses, Carmen se aisló en su cuarto de hotel. No podía trabajar y luchaba por hacer amigos. A veces, paseaba hasta el vestíbulo del hotel remodelado, una plaza, donde migrantes y refugiados se reunían diariamente. Fue allí varias veces para intentar conocer gente, pero estallaron peleas que la asustaron.

“Lloraba todo el tiempo… si alguien me decía algo, comenzaba a llorar”.

A medida que pasaban las semanas, Carmen comenzó a cortarse. Estaba consumida por la depresión. Después de casi un año en esa habitación de hotel, no pudo soportarlo más. A finales de octubre de 2023, llevó a sus hijos de regreso a la Autoridad Portuaria de Nueva York y abordó un autobús, dejando atrás una vez más su hogar adoptivo. Esta vez se dirigía a Detroit, donde su hermano se había mudado y la había invitado a unirse a él.

La ciudad de Detroit compartió, que no hay datos sobre el número total de inmigrantes que han llegado. Sin embargo, David M. Bowser, jefe de soluciones de vivienda y servicios de apoyo de la ciudad, dijo que actualmente hay 144 recién llegados, que ocupan camas en instalaciones de emergencia.

“La ciudad continúa trabajando estrechamente con los socios locales, para conocer y abordar las necesidades de todos los residentes, ya sean nuevos o antiguos de la ciudad de Detroit”, dijo Bowser.

Cuando llegó Carmen encontró más desafíos, pero también un nuevo hogar. Recientemente consiguió un pequeño apartamento de una habitación, donde vive con su pareja, sus dos hijos y su hermana.

“Sufrí todos los días del viaje, dormí en las calles, me trataron muy mal, tenía mucha hambre y la salud de mi hija se resintió. Nunca lo hubiera hecho si hubiera sabido como iba a ser”, expresó Carmen.

Desde su ataque de pánico en Vernor Hwy en el suroeste de Detroit, Carmen comenzó la escuela, aprendió a leer y se está adaptando a su nuevo hogar.

“Por primera vez en mi vida siento que estoy dando un paso por delante,” afirmó.

Recursos para inmigrantes en Detroit

SERVICIOS SOCIALES

LA-SED: Latin Americans for Social and Economic Development
4138 Vernor Hwy,
Detroit, MI 48209
313-554-2025

AYUDA MUTUA

Detroit Hispanic Development Corporation
1211 Trumbull, Detroit 48126
313-967-4880

Church of the Messiah
231 E Grand Blvd,
Detroit, MI 48207
313-567-1158

SERVICIOS LEGALES

Southwest Detroit Immigrant and Refugee Center
17375 Harper Ave, Suite 24124
Detroit, MI 48224
313-288-9904

ALOJAMIENTO

Freedom House Detroit
1777 N Rademacher St,
Detroit, MI 48209
313-964-4320

City of Detroit’s Housing & Revitalization Department
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Traducción por Carmen Elena Luna.

Martina Guzmán *es la fundadora y directora de Race and Justice Reporting Initiative en el Damon J. Keith Center for Civil Rights en Wayne State University Law School. Su trabajo ha aparecido en NPR, The Guardian, Slate, PBS, Next City, y HOUR Magazine, entre muchos otros. Nacida y criada en Detroit, es una orgullosa hija de inmigrantes mexicanos.*

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Detroit's Biggest Party

EL CENTRAL
HISPANIC NEWS
SPORTS

Sports Editor: Dan Graschuck/ EL CENTRAL

Detroit Tigers 25th Season Home Opening Day at Comerica Park on April 5
After 124 Years the SPRING ritual brings out Detroiters

Article and photos by Mike Alberts/ EL CENTRAL

While the Tigers are currently in Lakeland, Florida, preparations are underway for a jam-packed April sports calendar in Detroit. Comerica Park will see the Tigers' Home opener first pitch scheduled for 1:10 pm on Friday, April 5th. The ritual of spring brings out politicians, celebrities, and fans for what has become a "holiday" in Detroit. Bosses will "be in a meeting", kids will be out of school with a fever, "Tiger Fever", and the faithful will celebrate a game that makes sense in a world gone crazy.

The Tigers will square off against the Oakland A's for the first Opening Day home game since 1993. The good news is that the score against the A's in 1993 was 20 – 4 with the Tigers walking away with a convincing start to the season. It was the 82nd opening day for baseball at the corner of Michigan and Trumbull Avenue. Mike Ilitch had just purchased the franchise the previous season and spruced up the old ballpark with a food court. Kirk Gibson, a 35-year-old, made his return to a packed house as a Tiger and received a standing ovation. Detroit scored 20 runs on 18 hits, an astounding 12 walks, and two errors. The 20 runs were the most that a Tigers team had scored in a home opener since 1922 when the team scored 15 runs vs. Cleveland. It was also the first 20-run game the franchise had seen since the 1937 Tigers beat the St. Louis Browns 20-7. The 1993 Tigers were just one short of tying the club record for most runs in a game set in September 1901. Tony LaRussa was the A's manager and called the game an "embarrassment".

Tickets for opening day at Comerica are available but going fast, and the price is on the rise. The day is guaranteed to see faces not normally associated with baseball on the field… and there will be some faces and voices that will always be remembered. Hopefully, fans will hear the voice of Ernie Harwell ring out over an improved visual and audio system. Comerica has a brand-new videoboard, measuring 15,688 square feet.

Significant enhancements will be made to the audio system at Comerica Park, and televisions throughout the ballpark will be upgraded. New televisions throughout the Comerica Park concourse will feature advanced signal quality and additional channels, including live feeds of the Tigers' minor league affiliate teams. The connected IPTV system will also be upgraded to provide a consistent and enhanced visual experience throughout the ballpark.

Photos below are highlights from previous Detroit Tigers Home Openers

DICHIO GETS THE PERFECT START

EL CENTRAL HISPANIC NEWS SPORTS

Pateando la No. 5

David Levine
EL CENTRAL

Detroit City FC started the 2024 USL Championship season with a win last weekend in Colorado Springs. The 2-1 victory over the Switchbacks marks the first time DCFC has won its opening game in the USL Championship. The arrival of a new manager, new faces in the starting eleven, and a new 4-3-3 formation all added up to a successful start of the season on a frigid evening in the Rocky Mountains.

Danny Dichio will be thrilled with picking up his first win as a head coach in the league. Doing it away from home in adverse weather condition makes it that much sweeter. Three of his new signings started the match and two were involved in the first goal of the season.

Forward Ali Coote arrived from Bohemians in Ireland during the winter. He started on the left side of a front three with fellow newcomer Elvis Amon through the middle and Ben Morris on the right. Coote set up the first goal of the season after just eleven minutes with a slick reverse pass that sent Maxi Rodriguez in the penalty area. Rodriguez pulled the ball back for Amoh to slot home his first goal for the club on his debut. Amoh joined from Hartford and should give the club an athletic, physical number nine, who can battle big center backs and run at them with the ball. If he can finish with any regularity, the club will have a better goal total than last season.

While the newcomers ignited the attack, familiar faces dominated the back line. Following Matt Lewis' sudden retirement, Dichio had to adjust his plans. Michael Bryant came in at right back. The popular utility player has popped up everywhere across the back four and even in midfield during his time with DCFC. He is a solid, stay-at-home defender, vital for tough away games. Captain Stephen Carroll and Devon Amoo-Mensah formed the central partnership with Brett Levis on the left.

The always reliable Nate Steinwascher played a strong game in goal, making his usual stunning save with the score tied in the late going. The Switchbacks had canceled out Amoh's goal two minutes into the second half when DCFC collectively lost their concentration during an innocuous free kick in midfield. A quick combination of passes found Matt Mahoney in front of goal with the defense wishing for offside. Given a chance to redeem the defense Steinwascher cleared a point blank head from a corner fifteen minutes from time.

Steinwascher's brilliance set the table for DCFC's familiar faces to claim all three points. Rhys Williams and Connor Rutz came on in a double change that adjusted the formation with Williams going to right back and Rutz joining the attack. In the ninetieth minute, Williams whipped in a devilish cross that ricocheted off two defenders and fell to Rutz. The Commerce Township native's first attempt came back off the goalkeeper. As he was spinning to the ground, Rutz swept the ball into the goal.

Detroit City now comes home to christen a new season at Keyworth against Loudon United on Saturday. The visitors thumped North Carolina 3-1 last weekend, following a 2-2 draw in San Antonio to open the season. Much like the trip to Colorado, this game will be a solid test of Le Rouge's credentials. As Dichio gets more familiar with his team and the new players become more integrated, there may be regular adjustments to the starting eleven. It would be a good idea to freshen things up anyway, because this is a long season. With MLS giving the US Open Cup short shrift, there is a real chance to make a run in that competition, adding games to the thirty-four game regular season.

Even with the expected cold temperatures, DCFC will be expecting a solid turnout from its faithful fanbase. Scoring two goals in the opening game will be a welcome sight to fans who sat through far too many goalless or near goalless games last year.

Detroit City FC Mens Start Season With Win !!!

The Detroit City FC Mens defeated Switchbacks FC, this past weekend, 2-1.

The next game for the Detroit City FC Mens, is this Saturday, March 23rd, for there home opener, hosting Loudoun United FC at 4:00 pm at Keyworth Stadium (DETROIT50).

The Detroit City FC Mens go on the road, on Saturday, March 30th, to take on Indy Eleven at 7:00 pm.

For more information about Detroit City FC, visit detcityfc.com and follow @DetroitCityFC on Twitter and Facebook and @detroitcityfootballclub on Instagram.

Photos below are highlights from Saturdays game between Detroit City FC and Switchbacks FC

Photos provided by Detroit City FC and Switchbacks FC

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Holy Redeemer
313-842-3450
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Detroit, MI 48209
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Lunes Viernes: 6:00pm
Domingo: 10:00am, 12:00pm, 6:00pm

First Latin American Baptist Church
313-461-3669
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Detroit, MI

Most Holy Trinity
313-965-4450
1050 Porter St.
Detroit, MI 48226
Misa: Dom 9am

St. Gabriel's
313-841-0753
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Detroit, MI 48209
Misa: Dom 9:30am, 12:00pm, 7:00pm
Lunes: 6:00pm
Martes: 6:00pm
Miércoles: 9:00am

St. Francis D'Assisi - St. Hedwigs Parish
313-894-5409
3245 Junction
Detroit, Mi 48209
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Miércoles: 7:00pm
Jueves: 7:00pm

Ste. Annes Parish
313-496-1701
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Misa: Dom 10am

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